

Serial No. 09/695,259
Amdt. dated September 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 19, 2006

Docket No. P-0138

REMARKS

By the present response, Applicant has canceled claims 2, 3 and 12 without disclaimer. Further, Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 to further clarify the invention. Claims 1, 4-11 and 13-19 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,215,858 (Bartholomew). Claims 3, 7, 10, 12 and 18 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 7, 10, 12 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Bartholomew. Applicant has canceled claim 2. Regarding claims 1 and 11, Applicant has amended these claims with the subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 12, deemed to be allowable by the Examiner.

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Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the cited reference at least for these reasons.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1, 4-11 and 13-19 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Frederick D. Bailey, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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